

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 652**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Leno**

February 19, 2003

An act to repeal and add Section 4980.02 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to marriage and family therapists.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 652, as introduced, Leno. Marriage and family therapists.

Existing law regulates and licenses the marriage and family therapists and defines the practice of marriage and family therapy.

This bill would revise this definition to include, among other things, the diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, prevention, and treatment of mental, nervous, and emotional disorders within the context of marriage and family systems.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 4980.02 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is repealed.
- 3 ~~4980.02. For the purposes of this chapter, the practice of~~
- 4 ~~marriage and family therapy shall mean that service performed~~
- 5 ~~with individuals, couples, or groups wherein interpersonal~~
- 6 ~~relationships are examined for the purpose of achieving more~~
- 7 ~~adequate, satisfying, and productive marriage and family~~
- 8 ~~adjustments. This practice includes relationship and premarriage~~
- 9 ~~counseling.~~

~~The application of marriage and family therapy principles and methods includes, but is not limited to, the use of applied psychotherapeutic techniques, to enable individuals to mature and grow within marriage and the family, and the provision of explanations and interpretations of the psychosexual and psychosocial aspects of relationships.~~

SEC. 2. Section 4980.02 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4980.02. (a) For the purposes of this chapter, the practice of marriage and family therapy means the rendering of professional marriage and family therapy services to individuals, couples, and families, singly or in groups.

(b) Marriage and family therapy includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) The diagnosis, assessment, prognosis, prevention, and treatment of mental, nervous, and emotional disorders, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within the context of marriage and family systems.

(2) The professional application of psychotherapeutic and family system theories and techniques in the delivery of services to individuals, couples, and families to treat and diagnose mental, nervous, and emotional disorders.